

Message Text

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22

ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5925

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AO, US

SUBJ: REACTIONS AT UN TO ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. SOBERED BY THE PROGRESSIVE COLLAPSE OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN ANGOLA, AND THE DISINCLINATION OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING TO HELP STEM THAT TIDE, MANY AFRICANS HERE ARE LETTING US KNOW FORTHRIGHTLY OF THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AND SUSPICION CONCERNING THE VALUE OF US COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE.

2. THREE VARY DIVERSE AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES SANG THE VERY SAME TUNE ON THIS JUST THE OTHER DAY TO DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF USUN. UPPER VOLTAN PERM REP (AND AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON) YAGUIBOU COMMENTED THAT "A COUNTRY MUST BE WARY WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS BEHIND YOU. WHEN THE U.S. BACKS YOU, YOU LOSE". IRONICALLY, IT WAS MHLAMBISO, OF AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA "LIBERATION MOVEMENT", WHO REMARKED TO US THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD LET DOWN THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND EXPOSED THEM TO THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM. CHIEF KAPUWO, OF NAMIBIA, STATED TO US THAT WINDHOEK CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE NOW WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS PROCEEDINGS, IN EFFORT TO AVOID PREMATURE INDEPENDENCE.

3. BUT ADDED TO THIS ANXIETY IS, PREDICTABLY, REALISM.

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CAR PERMREP BANDIO CLEARLY IS HEDGING HIS BETS. KENYAN

PERM REP MAINA TOLD US FEBRUARY 18 THAT MPLA HAD NOW WON
AND THAT WAS THAT, DESPITE WELL-KNOWN KENYAN EFFORTS
AT MOMBASA AND ELSEWHERE TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.
MAINA SAID THAT HE WOULD BE LESS THAN FRANK IF HE DID NOT
TELL US THAT MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE VERY RELUCTANT
TO REQUEST COVERT AID FROM US FOR ANGOLAN CAUSE, FOR
FEAR US PRESS WOULD PUBLICIZE SUCH INVOLVEMENT, TO DETRIMENT
OF AFRICANS. MAINA ADDED THAT IT WAS ALMOST INCREDULOUS
THAT US WAS ALLOWING SUCH SELF-FLAGELLATION IN THE PRESS
CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS. DIDN'T WE KNOW THAT BY
INDULGING IN SUCH SELF CRITICISM IN PUBLIC, WE LAID OURSELVES
OPEN TO ABUSE FROM AFRICANS WHO ARE NOT OUR FRIENDS,
SUCH AS NIGERIA?
SHERER

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